AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

1.   (Currently Amended) A method for improving service accounting in a network, the

method comprising the steps of:

in an authentication, authorization, and accounting server:

authenticating and authorizing a client;

in response to authenticating and authorizing the client, sending an authorization accept

message that includes an accounting record within the message; ~~and~~

causing the accounting record to be logged; and

receiving, subsequent to the sending, a start session message that includes the accounting

record.

2.   (Original) A method as recited in Claim 1, further comprising the step of obtaining the

accounting record for the client from an external resource.

3.   (Original) A method as recited in Claim 2, further comprising the step of obtaining the

accounting record for the client from a Lightweight Directory Access Protocol directory.

4.   (Original) A method as recited in Claim 1, wherein the client is selected from the group

consisting of a wireless network client, a wired network client, and a dial up client.

5.   (Original) A method as recited in Claim 1, wherein the step of causing to be logged

comprises causing the accounting record to be logged on a dedicated logging device.

6.   (Original) A method as recited in Claim 1, wherein the step of causing to be logged

comprises causing the accounting record to be logged on an authentication, authorization,

and accounting server.

7.   (Original) A method as recited in Claim 1, wherein the step of causing to be logged

comprises causing the accounting record to be logged on a network device.

8.   (Original) A method as recited in Claim 1, wherein the step of causing to be logged

comprises logging the accounting record with a session start log entry.

9.   (Original) A method as recited in Claim 1, wherein the step of causing to be logged

comprises logging the accounting record with a session stop log entry.

10.   (Original) A method as recited in Claim 1, wherein the accounting record comprises a

handle to a second accounting record.

11.   (Original) A method as recited in Claim 10, further comprising the steps of:

retrieving the second accounting record using the handle to the second accounting record;

         and

causing the second accounting record to be logged.

12.   (Original) A method as recited in Claim 1, wherein the accounting record comprises data

in a plurality of attribute-value pairs.

13. (Original) A method as recited in Claim 1, wherein the step of sending is performed in a protocol selected from the group consisting of Remote Authentication Dial In User Service, Terminal Access Controller Access Control System, Diameter, and Security Assertion Markup Language.

14. (Original) A method as recited in Claim 1, wherein a particular data set is used in the step of authenticating and authorizing and the accounting record comprises said particular data set.

15. (Currently Amended) A method for improving service accounting in a network, the method comprising the steps of:

in a client of an authentication, authorization, and accounting server:

sending an authorization request;

receiving an accounting record in an authorization accept message; ~~and~~

causing the accounting record to be logged; and

sending, subsequent to sending the authorization request, a start session message that includes the accounting record.

16. (Original) A method as recited in Claim 15, wherein the step of causing to be logged comprises causing the accounting record to be logged on a dedicated logging device.

17. (Original) A method as recited in Claim 15, wherein the step of causing to be logged comprises causing the accounting record to be logged on an authentication, authorization, and accounting server.

18.   (Previously Presented) A computer-readable storage medium storing one or more

        sequences of instructions which, when executed by one or more processors, causes the

        one or more processors to perform the method recited in Claim 1.

19.   (Previously Presented) A computer-readable storage medium storing one or more

        sequences of instructions which, when executed by one or more processors, causes the

        one or more processors to perform the method recited in Claim 2.

20.   (Previously Presented) A computer-readable storage medium storing one or more

        sequences of instructions which, when executed by one or more processors, causes the

        one or more processors to perform the method recited in Claim 3.

21.   (Previously Presented) A computer-readable storage medium storing one or more

        sequences of instructions which, when executed by one or more processors, causes the

        one or more processors to perform the method recited in Claim 4.

22.   (Previously Presented) A computer-readable storage medium storing one or more

        sequences of instructions which, when executed by one or more processors, causes the

        one or more processors to perform the method recited in Claim 5.

23.   (Previously Presented) A computer-readable storage medium storing one or more

        sequences of instructions which, when executed by one or more processors, causes the

        one or more processors to perform the method recited in Claim 6.

24.   (Previously Presented) A computer-readable storage medium storing one or more

sequences of instructions which, when executed by one or more processors, causes the

one or more processors to perform the method recited in Claim 7.

25.   (Previously Presented) A computer-readable storage medium storing one or more

sequences of instructions which, when executed by one or more processors, causes the

one or more processors to perform the method recited in Claim 8.

26.   (Previously Presented) A computer-readable storage medium storing one or more

sequences of instructions which, when executed by one or more processors, causes the

one or more processors to perform the method recited in Claim 9.

27.   (Previously Presented) A computer-readable storage medium storing one or more

sequences of instructions which, when executed by one or more processors, causes the

one or more processors to perform the method recited in Claim 10.

28.   (Previously Presented) A computer-readable storage medium storing one or more

sequences of instructions which, when executed by one or more processors, causes the

one or more processors to perform the method recited in Claim 11.

29.   (Previously Presented) A computer-readable storage medium storing one or more

sequences of instructions which, when executed by one or more processors, causes the

one or more processors to perform the method recited in Claim 12.

30.   (Previously Presented) A computer-readable storage medium storing one or more

sequences of instructions which, when executed by one or more processors, causes the

one or more processors to perform the method recited in Claim 13.

31.   (Previously Presented) A computer-readable storage medium storing one or more

sequences of instructions which, when executed by one or more processors, causes the

one or more processors to perform the method recited in Claim 14.

32.   (Previously Presented) A computer-readable storage medium storing one or more

sequences of instructions which, when executed by one or more processors, causes the

one or more processors to perform the method recited in Claim 15.

33.   (Previously Presented) A computer-readable storage medium storing one or more

sequences of instructions which, when executed by one or more processors, causes the

one or more processors to perform the method recited in Claim 16.

34.   (Previously Presented) A computer-readable storage medium storing one or more

sequences of instructions which, when executed by one or more processors, causes the

one or more processors to perform the method recited in Claim 17.

35.   (Currently Amended) A method as recited in Claim 1, ~~further comprising:~~

~~receiving, subsequent to the sending, a start session message that includes the accounting~~

~~record;~~

wherein the causing the accounting record to be logged is performed in response to the

receiving; and

wherein the authorization accept message and the start session message conform to the

Remote Authentication Dial In User Service (RADIUS) protocol.

36.   (Currently Amended) A method as recited in Claim 15, ~~further comprising:~~

~~sending, subsequent to sending the authorization request, a start session message that~~

~~includes the accounting record; and~~

wherein the authorization accept message and the start session message conform to the

Remote Authentication Dial In User Service (RADIUS) protocol.